

Application No.: 08/870,591
Attorney Docket No.: 021123-0238397

REMARKS

I. Status of the claims

Claims 16, 17, and 20 are pending. No claims have been amended in this response.

II. Double-patenting Rejection

The examiner has rejected claims 16, 17, and 20 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,180,076.

With this response, Applicants file a terminal disclaimer of U.S. Patent No. 6,180,076 to overcome the double-patenting rejection. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the examiner withdraw this rejection.

III. Conclusion

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

January 13, 2005

By: 

Jeffrey N. Townes

Registration No. 47,142

P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
703.905.2000 Telephone
703.905.2500 Facsimile